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Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting speech frames in a TDMA packet switched network in which ~~at least one time slot of the TDMA frame is allocated to at least two users~~, the method comprising:

providing speech user data from at least two users having the same data rate requirement;

encoding said speech user data from the at least two users into a single RLC/MAC block;

allocating at least one time slot of a TDMA frame to the RLC/MAC block;

and

transmitting at least a portion of the encoded RLC/MAC block in the allocated at least one time-slot such that it carries speech data from each of the at least two users.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step comprises transmitting the encoded RLC/MAC block in a plurality of time-slots, wherein the plurality includes the at least one time slot.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting step includes a step of interleaving the RLC/MAC block such that the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 in which the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein:  
the network is an EDGE packet switched network;  
the user data is speech; and  
the transmitting step comprises transmitting the RLC/MAC block in four of the plurality of time-slots.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein each time slot carries a quarter of the encoded user data for each user.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitting step includes a step of interleaving the RLC/MAC block such that in each TDMA frame the at least one time slot carries at least a part of the user data from only one of the two users.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein in each TDMA frame the at least one time-slot carries at least a part of the user data from one of the two users.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7 wherein an encoded speech frame from each of the two users is carried over an alternate ones of a plurality of time slots, wherein the plurality of time slots include the at least one time slot.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 9 wherein  
the network is an EDGE packet switched network;  
the user data is speech; and  
the transmitting step comprises transmitting the RLC/MAC block in four of  
the plurality of time-slots.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 10 wherein alternate time slots carry half of the encoded user data for each user.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 wherein the user data comprises speech.

13. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 3, wherein:  
the network is a wireless network; and  
the speech frames are transmitted on the down-link of the network.

14. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 7, wherein:  
the network is a wireless network; and  
user data is transmitted on the up-link of the network.

**15. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1 in which the at least one time-slot simultaneously carries at least a part of the user data from each of the two users.